

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/867,303

Examiner

Blaine Basom

Applicant(s)

MANNI ET AL.

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Applicants' Amendments, received September 5, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 27-57.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicants' Attorney, Jens Jenkins, on November 29, 2006. The application has been amended as follows:

1. Please replace claim 27 with the following:

--27. (Currently Amended) A generic user control point tool for discovering, controlling, and displaying Universal Plug and Play (UPnP) devices on a system, the generic user control point tool comprising:

a user interface that displays, in a first window panel:

a plurality of user-selectable device search fields corresponding to a plurality of alternate types of searches for discovering UPnP devices on the system, wherein each of the user-selectable device search fields corresponds to one of the alternate types of searches for discovering UPnP devices on the system;

a device properties search field displaying to the user a plurality of user-selectable UPnP device properties, wherein the user-selectable UPnP device properties are determined and displayed by the user interface in response to user selection of one of the user-selectable device search fields, and wherein the user interface determines the UPnP

device properties by utilizing at least one file containing device property information, the at least one file corresponding to the user-selected device search field;

wherein in response to user-selection of one of the user-selectable device search fields and one of the user-selectable UPnP device properties, the generic user control point tool collects UPnP device information that is displayed as a list of selectable UPnP devices at the first window panel of the user interface. --

2. In claim 28, line 2, please replace the phrase, “the plurality of selectable search type options” with the phrase, --the selectable device search fields--
3. In claim 29, line 3, please replace the phrase, “a selected search type option” with the phrase --the user-selected device search field and the user-selected UPnP device property--
4. In claim 33, line 2, please add the phrase --corresponding to the selected UPnP device-- after the phrase “displays the properties”.
5. In claim 35, line 4, please add the word --panel-- after the phrase “the first window”.
6. Please replace claim 43 with the following:
--43. (Currently Amended) A method for discovering, controlling, and displaying Universal Plug and Play (UPnP) devices on a system using a generic user control point tool, the method comprising:

displaying a user interface with the generic user control point tool in a first window panel;

displaying at the user interface:

a plurality of user-selectable device search fields corresponding to a plurality of alternate types of searches for discovering UPnP devices on the system, wherein each of the user-selectable device search fields corresponds to one of the alternate types of searches for discovering UPnP devices on the system;

a device properties search field displaying to the user a plurality of user-selectable UPnP device properties, wherein the user-selectable UPnP device properties are determined and displayed by the user interface in response to user selection of one of the user-selectable device search fields, and wherein the user interface determines the UPnP device properties by utilizing at least one file containing device property information, the at least one file corresponding to the user-selected device search field;

in response to user-selection of one of the user-selectable device search fields and one of the user-selectable UPnP device properties, collecting UPnP device information corresponding to compliant UPnP devices on the system; and

displaying the compliant UPnP devices in a selectable list at the first window panel of the user interface. --

7. In claim 44, lines 1-2, please replace the phrase, "the plurality of selectable search type options" with the phrase, --the selectable device search fields--

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8. In claim 48, line 1, please add the phrase --corresponding to the selected UPnP device-- after the phrase “wherein the properties”.
9. In claim 50, line 5, please add the word --panel-- between the words “window” and “used”.
10. In claim 51, line 1, please replace “claim 47” with --claim 49--.
11. In claim 52, line 1, please replace “claim 47” with --claim 49--.
12. In claim 55, line 2, please replace the phrase, “detive type” with the phrase, --device type--

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent claims 27 and 43, the prior art (e.g. U.S. Patent No. 6,272,537 to Kekic et al.) teaches a generic control point tool for discovering, controlling, and displaying devices on a network, the tool comprising a user interface that displays a window panel, which comprises device search fields corresponding to types of searches for discovering devices on the network, the device search fields being selected to initiate device discovery according to the selected field(s), and wherein in response to selection of the device search fields, the generic

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control point tool initiates device discovery and displays a resultant list of discovered devices that satisfy search criteria specified via the device search fields. UPnP is well known in the art, as is the fact that a plurality of alternate types of searches may be performed for discovering UPnP devices within a system (see e.g. "Universal Plug and Play Device Architecture"). That is, it would have been obvious to apply a generic control point tool to discover UPnP devices, i.e. to include within the interface of the control point tool a plurality of search fields each corresponding to an alternate type of search for discovering UPnP devices. In addition to UPnP and generic control point tools, interfaces for searching for information that satisfies user-specified criteria are well known in the art.

The prior art (e.g. U.S. Patent No. 7,107,226 to Cassidy et al.) teaches, for instance, a user interface comprising a plurality of user-selectable search fields each corresponding to an alternate type of search, and a properties search field that displays to the user a plurality of user-selectable search properties, wherein the user-selectable properties are determined and displayed by the user interface in response to user selection of one of the user-selectable search fields, wherein the user interface determines the properties by utilizing at least one file containing property information, the file corresponding to the user-selected search field, and wherein in response to user selection of one of the user-selectable search fields and one of the user-selectable properties, the interface collects and displays information that satisfies the criteria specified by the selected search field and the selected property.

There is no teaching or suggestion within the prior art, however, for combining such an interface with that of a generic user control point tool in order to search for UPnP devices, i.e. there is no teaching or suggestion to include within the generic control point tool a device

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properties search field that displays to the user a plurality of user-selectable device properties (e.g. device types, device identification numbers), wherein the device properties are determined and displayed in response to selecting a device search field, and wherein the UPnP device properties are determined by utilizing at least one file containing device property information, the file corresponding to the selected device search field, as is required by claims 27 and 43.

As claims 28-42 and 55-57 depend on claim 27, and include all of the limitations of claim 27, claims 28-42 and 55-57 are allowed for the reasons in which claim 27 is allowed. Similarly, claims 44-54 depend on claim 43 and include all of the limitations of claim 43, and therefore, claims 44-54 are allowed for the reasons in which claim 43 is allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Blaine Basom whose telephone number is (571) 272-4044. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm.

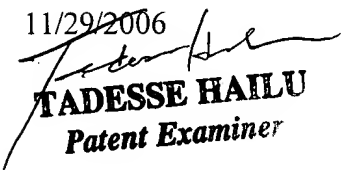
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

btb

11/29/2006


TADESSE HAILU
Patent Examiner